

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 03840 161956Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 TRSE-00 (ISO) W

-----057950 162156Z /63

R 161920Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4064

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3840

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON NICARAGUA:

GON REACTION

SUMMARY: GON OFFICIAL COMMENT ON AI REPORT ON NICARAGUA
ATTACKS POLITICAL MOTIVES OF AI AND AI INFORMANTS, ATTEMPTS
TO DISCREDIT CATHOLIC CHURCH AS OBJECTIVE SOURCE, AND DENIES
EXISTENCE OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS, REPORTED TORTURE, AND
EXISTENCE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. EMBASSY WILL COMMENT ON
AI REPORT WHEN IT IS RECEIVED. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 16 INFORMATION AND PRESS SECRETARY BERMUDEZ
ISSUED COMMUNIQUE ATTACKING AI REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
NICARAGUA AS AN APOLOGY FOR TERRORISM. COMMUNIQUE STATES AI
SOURCES ARE POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL OPPONENTS OF GON AND
REPORT IS INCONSISTENT, CONTRADICTORY, AND FULL OF FALSEHOOD.
SOURCES IDENTIFIED FOR ATTACK ARE FATHER FERNANDO CARDENAL,
DR. PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO AND LA PRENSA.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 03840 161956Z

2. ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT CHURCH IS MADE BY CITING
DIVISION WITHIN CHURCH ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND QUOTING
(PROBABLY VICE RECTOR OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNIV. JESUIT PRIEST CARLOS
AN UNNAMED PRIEST/TO THE EFFECT THAT HE "OBSERVES WITH CABALLERO)
SORROW THE COMPORTMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN
NICARAGUAN AND FOREIGN PRIESTS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN BY

THE POLITICS OF PARTIES AND GROUPS...THESE STATEMENTS DON'T ALWAYS ADHERE TO HONESTY AND TRUTH BUT ALWAYS HAVE TENDED TOWARD EXAGGERATION, LIES, RUMORS, AND FALSE INTERPRETATIONS." THE COMMUNIQUE FURTHER STATES A CAPUCHIN SPOKESMAN HAS ALSO DEPLORED FALSIFIED REPORTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.

3. THE ATTACK ON AI REFERS TO IT AS A PART OF A SYSTEM-ATIC CAMPAIGN BY VESTED INTERESTS TO TARNISH THE DEMOCRATIC IMAGE OF THE GON. GENERAL LAUGERUD IS QUOTED AS HAVING PUBLICLY SAID DURING A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO NICARAGUA ON MAY 18, 1976 THAT "IF YOU ARE CURIOUS ENOUGH TO READ A FEW OF THE DOCUMENTS WHICH AI PRESENTS, YOU WILL SEE THAT THEY NEVER ASK BY WHOM OR HOW A POLICEMAN WAS ASSASSINATED, BY WHOM OR HOW AN ARMY MEMBER WAS ASSASSINATED. THEY NEVER ASK BY WHOM, WHEN, OR WHY PERSONS OF DEMOCRATIC TENDANCIES ARE ASSASSINATED. THEY ONLY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COMMUNISTS. THIS MEANS AI IS ONLY A FRONT FOR THE COMMUNISTS OF ALL COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD".

4. LASTLY, THE COMMUNIQUE COMPLETELY DENIES THE EXISTENCE OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS, AND TORTURES AS AI REPORTED. IT SAYS REPORTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE FALSE INASMUCH AS ALL SENTENCED PERSONS HAVE BEEN ACCORDED DEFENSE COUNSEL AND OPEN PROCEEDINGS AND HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF TERRORISM, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MANAGU 03840 161956Z

ASSASSINATION, HOLDUPS AND THEFT.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. EMB COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LIMITED DENIAL, THE COMMUNIQUE IS NOT A REBUTTAL BUT RATHER A POLITICAL ATTACK ON THE MOTIVES OF AI AND ITS INFORMANTS. NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO COUNTER ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION IN THE REPORT REGARDING DEATHS, DISAPPEARANCES OR TORTURE. EMBOFF CONTACTED CAPUCHIN FATHER PAT RE REFERENCE IN COMMUNIQUE TO CAPUCHINS. HE ACCEPTED HE HAD MADE PRIVATE COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT DISTORTIONS RE THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA IN THE FOREIGN PRESS MADE THEIR WORK MORE DIFFICULT, BUT DOUBTED ANY OF HIS ORDER HAD MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THAT EFFECT. HE ALSO OFFERED THE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A REPORT THAT SIX MORE PERSONS ON THE CHPUCHIN'S LIST OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS HAD RE-APPEARED BUT HE STILL LACKED DETAILS. EMB WILL COMPARE AI REPORT WITH INFORMATION IN ITS FILES AND PAST REPORTING AND WILL COMMENT AS SOON AS A COPY OF THE REPORT IS RECEIVED. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
RUBENSTEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANAGU03840
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770295-1067
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770858/aaaabwsj.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4adaf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1590199
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON NICARAGUA: GON REACTION SUMMARY: GON OFFICIAL COMMENT ON AI REPORT ON NICA
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, NU, AI
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4adaf759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009